

Message Text

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TAGS:
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

ZAMBIA PRESS FEBRUARY 16 PLAYS DOWN ANNOUNCEMENT IN SALISBURY
THAT BLACK AND WHITE LEADERS HAD REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ON THEIR FRONT PAGES AND ALSO THE
REACTION TO THE SALISBURY ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HERE AND ABROAD.

IN A REPORT HEADLINED "GANG OF FOUR SIGN DEAL IN SALISBURY",
THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL QUOTES PATRIOTIC FRONT
CO-LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMO AS SAYING THAT AN INTERAN SETTLEMENT
WOULD NOT WORK. REACTING TO THE SALISBURY ANNOUNCEMENT, MR. NKOMO
REPORTEDLY SAID: "THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL NOT WORK.
THE WAR CONTINUES." ASKED ABOUT A POSSIBLE NEGOTIATION
BETWEEN AN INTERNALLY-FORMED TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHICH HE CO-LEADER WITH
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ROBERT MUGABE, HE RESPONDED : "THIS IS NONSENSE. THE
BLACK LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT HAVE
NOW JOINED SMITH AND WE NOW KNOW WHO THE ENEMIES ARE.
THE JOB IS NOW EASIER TO HANDLE. THE WHOLE BUNCH IS
NOW IN ONE BASKET.

THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, RUN BY THE RULING UNIP PARTY, CARRIED

MR. NKOMO'S REMARKS AS MADE TO REUTER NEWS AGENCY HERE IN WHICH HE SAID OF THE AGREEMENT: "IT DOES NOT CHANGE ANYTHING. IT WILL NOT WORK. THESE MEN HAVE AGREED TO BE WITH SMITH AND TOGETHER THEY WILL CONTINUE THE HANGING OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE BURNING OF OUR HOUSES." NKOMO LAST NIGHT TOLD OTHER FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE": "THE AGREEMENT IS A TRAGEDY. ... IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THERE HAS BEEN AN INTERNAL AGREEMENT AND THEY HAVE ALL FAILED." HE ADDED: "WE ARE NOT FIGHTING TO JOIN A SMITH GOVERNMENT."

ASKED BY THE TIMES TO COMMENT ON THE AGREEMENT, ZAMBIAN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, JAMES MAPOMA, RESERVED COMMENT UNTIL HE HAD STUDIED THE REPORT OF THE SETTLEMENT TODAY.

HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND AN OFFICIAL GRZ STATEMENT WILL BE ISSUED TODAY CITING CONTINUED ZAMBIAN SUPPORT FOR PF AND ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.
9'BRIEN

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